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Patentanmeldung Nr. Patent application No. Demande de brevet n°

03028321.2

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If no title is shown please refer to the description.  
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Method for the determination of 25-hydroxycholecalciferol in feed

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The present invention relates to a method for the quantitative determination of 25-hydroxycholecalciferol (25-hydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub>) in animal feed. 25-Hydroxycholecalciferol is used as an additive to animal feed and is available as Hy-D™ (ROCHE VITAMINS AG, Basel, Switzerland) to improve the health status of animals such as livestock and pets. In view of its physiological potency and the narrow therapeutic window dosaging of the compound is critical and therefore, reliable analytical means are required to monitor the amount of the compound in feed and its uniform distribution therein.

Various methods for the quantitative determination of 25-hydroxycholecalciferol in plasma have been described which are based on immunoassays, see WO 99/67211 or on HPLC/mass spectrometry using derivatives or isotopes as internal standards, see Biological & Pharmaceutical Bulletin (2001), 24(7), 738-743. However, these known methods are not satisfying when applied to the analysis of feed samples.

As all the old methods show it is difficult to analyse 25-hydroxycholecalciferol in feed samples due to the presence of big quantities of solid chemical and biological substances, whereas plasma or serum consist mainly of water. Two types of methods are available. A physico-chemical method using HPLC and UV detection and an immunochemical method using HPLC for sample clean-up and radio-labeled immunoreagents, see Bruce. W. Hollis, Calcif. Tissue Int. (1996) 58:4-5. The other method, which was up-to-now in use was also laborious and contained an analytical step, which uses radioactive material for the quantification. This method consists of the addition of <sup>3</sup>H-25-hydroxycholecalciferol as internal standard, extraction with methanol, sample clean-up on reversed-phase SEP-PAK cartridges, further clean-up on normal-phase SEP-PAK cartridges, further clean-up on normal-phase HPLC and final intrinsic analytical reversed-phase HPLC. The overall recovery is determined by scintillation counting of the <sup>3</sup>H-25-hydroxycholecalciferol.

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- Quantification is done by external calibration and UV detection at 264 nm. The sample clean-up procedure is so laborious because the final quantification is done by UV. Such a complicated purification of the extract requires a determination of the recovery which is done using radio-labeled 25-hydroxycholecalciferol. Both methods are cumbersome, with
- 5 many poor performance characteristics and reproducibility.
- The present invention provides a novel multistep but straightforward procedure for the quantitative determination of 25-hydroxycholecalciferol which can be applied to animal feed samples with satisfying results.
- 10 More particularly the present invention relates to a process for the quantitative determination of 25-hydroxycholecalciferol in animal feed which comprises the steps of
- a) dispersing the feed sample in water and adding to the sample a defined amount of an internal standard compound having a mass different from 25-hydroxycholecalciferol and
  - 15 having a polarity similar to but different from 25-hydroxycholecalciferol;
  - b) extracting the aqueous dispersion with tert.butyl methyl ether;
  - c) submitting the ether extract to semipreparative HPLC;
  - 20 d) collecting the fractions containing 25-hydroxycholecalciferol and the internal standard compound;
  - e) submitting the fractions collected in d) or an aliquot thereof to HPLC combined with
  - 25 mass spectrometry;
  - f) determining the MS peak areas of 25-hydroxycholecalciferol and of the internal standard compound added; and
  - 30 g) calculating the amount of 25-hydroxycholecalciferol by computing the MS peak areas measured.

The internal standard compound used in step a) is, e.g., a derivative of, an isomer of or isotopically labeled 25-hydroxycholecalciferol, e.g. a deuterium labeled isotope such as

35 26,27-hexadeutero-25-hydroxycholecalciferol (Tetrahedron Lett. Vol. 32, No. 24, 2813-2816 (1991); or 25-hydroxyergocalciferol, or 1 $\alpha$ -hydroxycholecalciferol. The preferred standard compound is 26,27-hexadeutero-25-hydroxycholecalciferol. The standard

compound is suitably added as solution in methanol prior to dispersion or solution of the feed sample in water. The amount of standard compound to be added to the sample is not narrowly critical. Suitably, the standard compound is added in an amount to provide an about 0.05 m to about equimolar concentration based on 25-hydroxycholecalciferol. The aqueous dispersion or solution of the feed sample is then extracted in step b) with an about 1-10fold mount of tert.butyl methyl ether, preferably with sonication.

**Semipreparative HPLC** in accordance with step c) is accomplished by evaporating the organic solvent from the extract obtained in step b), suitably under exclusion of oxygen, on silica gel using an apolar solvent such as an aliphatic C<sub>5</sub> – C<sub>8</sub> hydrocarbon, e.g.,

10 isooctane or mixtures of such solvents with other polar solvents, such as lower alkanols, e.g., isopropanol and/or esters, e.g. ethyl acetate. A preferred system for semipreparative HPLC is silica gel and an isopropanol : ethyl acetate : isooctane mixture of about 1 : 10 : 89 (by volume). Analytical HPLC according to step e) is suitably carried out on a column of an apolar stationary phase such as modified silica gel using a polar solvent such as water or a  
15 lower alkanol. The term "modified silica gel" as used herein denotes a reversed-phase silica gel, e.g. silica gel etherified with a C<sub>18</sub> hydrocarbon moiety, e.g., Aquasil C18 as supplied by Thermo Hypersil-Keystone, Runcorn, UK.

The amount of 25-hydroxycholecalciferol in the sample on the basis of the mass spectrometry measurings according to step g) is calculated by the equations shown below:

$$\mu\text{g 25-hydroxycholecalciferol /kg} = \frac{\text{Area}_{\text{HD}}}{\text{Area}_{\text{ISD}}} * \text{ng ISD} * \text{RRF} * \frac{1000}{\text{Weight [g]}}$$

$$\text{RRF} = \text{relative response factor} = \frac{\left[ \frac{\text{RF}_{\text{HD}}}{\text{RF}_{\text{ISD}}} \right]}{\left[ \frac{\text{Area}_{\text{HD}} * \text{C}_{\text{ISD}}}{\text{Area}_{\text{ISD}} * \text{C}_{\text{HD}}} \right]}$$

25 RF = Response Factor ; RRF = Relative Response Factor ; ISD = Internal Standard Solution; HD = 25-hydroxycholecalciferol; c = concentration [ng/ml].

The relative response factor (RRF) is determined using a solution of both 25-hydroxy-cholecalciferol and 26, 27-hexadeutero-25-hydroxycholecalciferol at approx. 5 ng/ml in a solution of methanol ; water (70 : 30).

The invention is illustrated further be the following Example:

### Example

A. Extraction: 10 g of a feed sample (comprising a mixture of 28.6 % Soya, 3 % fish meal, 2 % Soya oil, 57.3 % maize, 2 % maize starch, 2.5 lignosulfonate, 3.1 % rice, 2% mineral

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Flow rates: Pump 1: 0.6 ml/min  
Pump 2: 0.7 ml/min

Injection volume: 90 µl

Injector temp.: 5°C

5 Column temp.: 40°C

Retention time: approx. 4 min

The chromatography was carried out according to the scheme set forth in Table 1 below:

10 **Table 1**

Column Switching System		Trapping Column			Analytical Column		
Time	Position	Time	Mobile Phase <sup>1)</sup>		Time	Mobile Phase <sup>1)</sup>	
0 – 1.65	A	0.00	60% B2	Conditioning			
		0.00 – 1.00	>85% B2	Loading Concentr.	1 – 1.65	90% B1	Conditioning
		1.00 – 1.65	85% B2	Washing			
1.65 – 2.20	B	1.65 – 2.20	90% B1	Transfer, forward flush	1.65 – 2.20	90% B1	Start of chromatography
2.20 – 12.00	A	2.20 – 2.50	85% B2	Washing	2.20 – 6.40	90% B1	Separation
		2.50 – 2.60	>100% B2	Washing	6.40 – 6.50	>100%	Washing
		2.60 – 9.00	100% B2	Washing	6.50 – 9.00	100% B1	Washing
		9.00 – 9.10	>60% B2		9.00 – 9.10	>90% B1	Washing, Conditioning
		9.10 – 12.0	60% B2	Conditioning	9.10 – 12.00	90% B1	Washing, Conditioning

<sup>1)</sup> > = Gradient (change of the composition of the mobile phase)  
The parameters of the mass specific detector (MSD) were as follows :

15 Detector: Agilent 1946C LC/MSD SL single-quadrupole mass  
specific detector

Ionisation technique: APCI (atmospheric pressure chemical ionisation)

Acquisition mode: SIM (selected ion monitoring)

Polarity: positive

Spray and drying gas: Nitrogen 99.999% (quality N50)

20 Drying gas flow: 9.5 L/min

Nebulizer gas pressure: 50 psig

Drying gas temperature: 225°C

Vaporizer temperature: 250°C

Capillary voltage: 3000 V (Vcap = ionisation voltage)

Corona current: 10  $\mu$ A

Gain: 1.5

SIM parameters

Ion	m/z (M+H) <sup>+</sup>	Fragmentor [V]	Dwell time [msec]	rel. Dwell time [%]
HyD - H <sub>2</sub> O	383.3	140	226	30
d6-HyD - H <sub>2</sub> O ISD	389.3	140	226	30
HyD	401.3	90	151	20
d6-HyD ISD	407.3	90	151	20

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Using the above installation and mode of operation, a standard solution, a blank feed sample ( no 25-hydroxycholecalciferol present), and a typical feed sample were analyzed. The standard solution was prepared as follows :

1. 25-hydroxycholecalciferol

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2.5 mg of 25-Hydroxy vitamin D<sub>3</sub> were dissolved in 50 ml of methanol. 2 ml of this solution was diluted to 200 ml with methanol to obtain a solution containing 500 ng/ml.

2. d<sub>6</sub>-25-hydroxycholecalciferol (internal standard)

2.5 mg of d<sub>6</sub>-25-hydroxycholecalciferol were dissolved in 50 ml of methanol.

15

2 ml of this solution was diluted to 200 ml with methanol to obtain a solution containing 500 ng/ml.

3. 1 ml each of the solutions of 25-hydroxycholecalciferol (1.) and d<sub>6</sub>-25-hydroxycholecalciferol (2.) were diluted to 100 ml with methanol : water (70 : 30) to obtain a solution containing, per ml, 5 ng of the hydroxylated cholecalciferol.

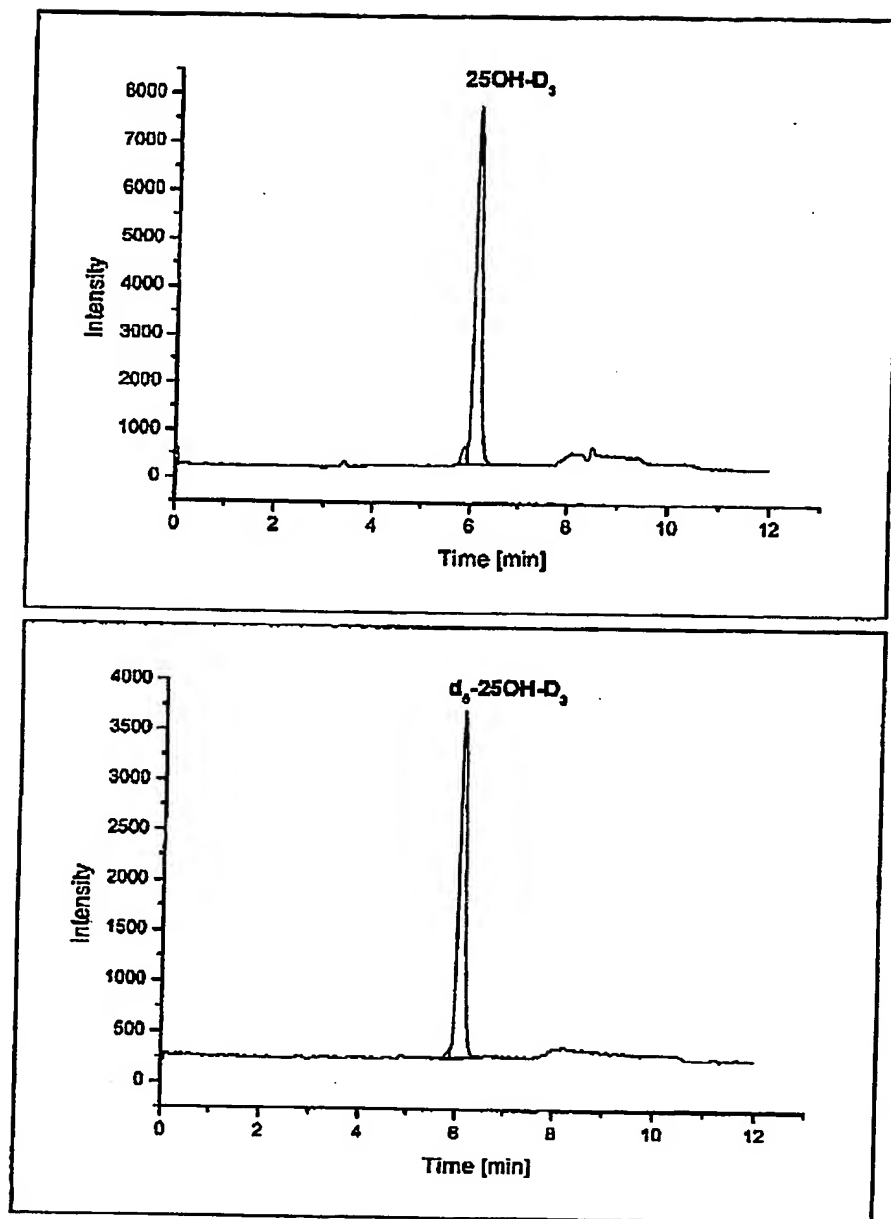
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The blank feed sample was analyzed in analogy to the procedure described in paragraph A. above.

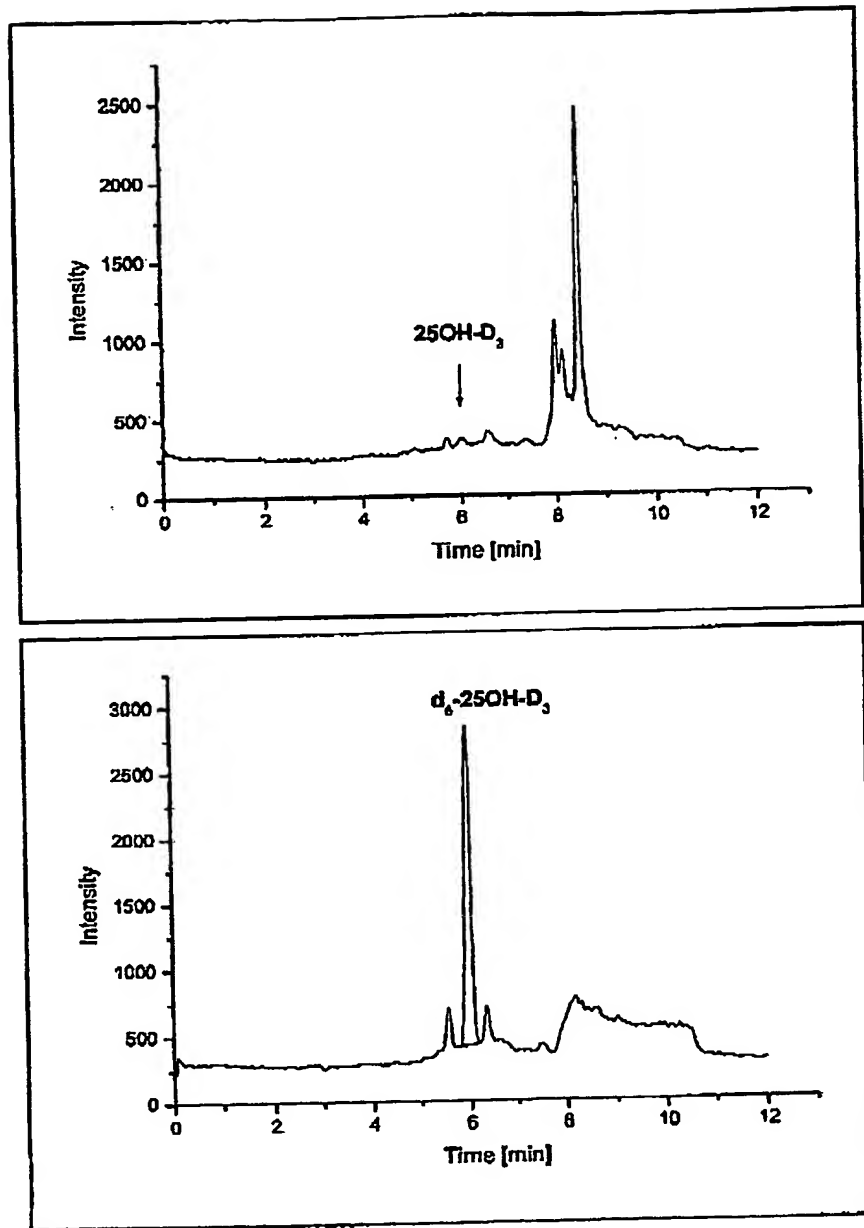
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The extracted ion chromatograms of the standard solutions, the blank feed sample and the typical feed sample are shown in Figures 1-3. The amounts of 25-hydroxycholecalciferol were calculated by the equations given earlier.

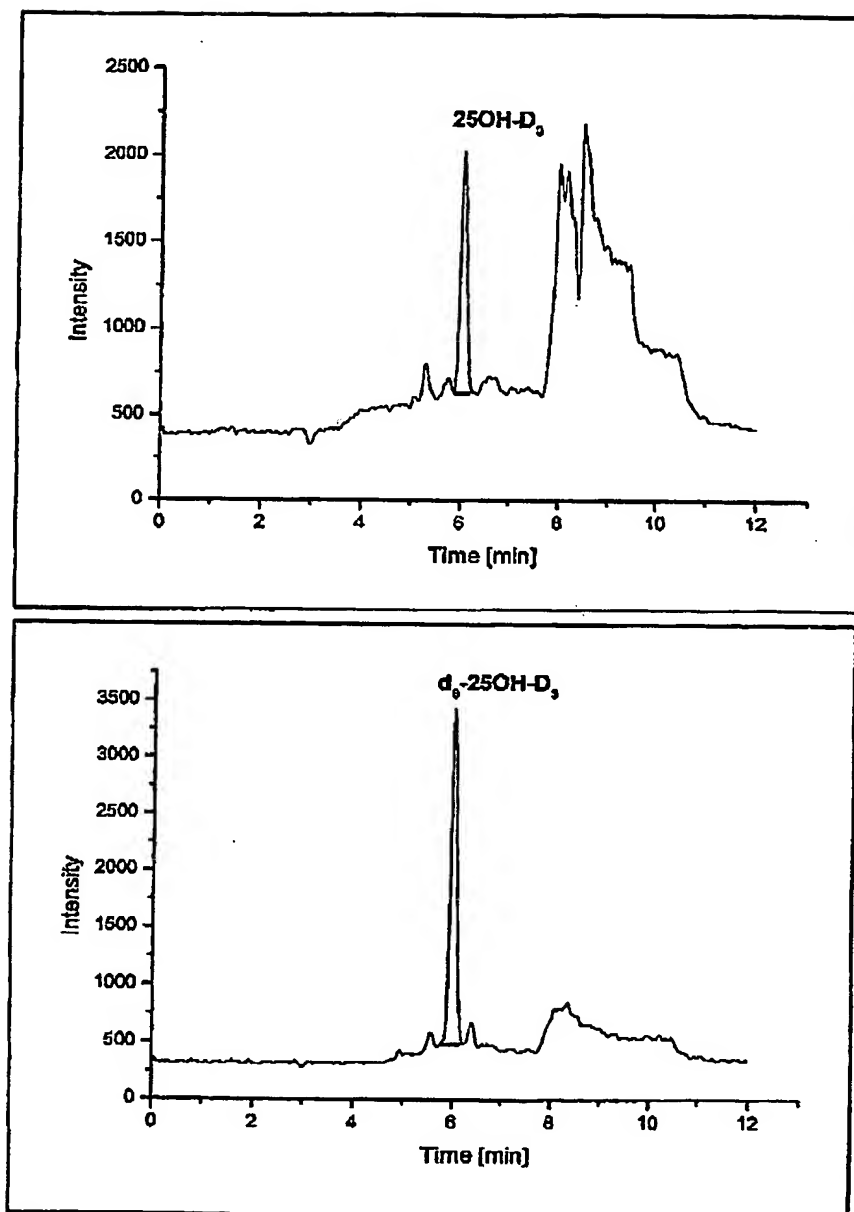




5 Fig 1: Extracted ion chromatograms of a standard  
 Top: mass trace of 25-hydroxycholecalciferol (25-OH-D<sub>3</sub>), (m/z =401.3)  
 Bottom: mass trace of 26,27-d<sub>6</sub>-25-hydroxycholecalciferol (d<sub>6</sub>-25-OH-D<sub>3</sub>), (m/z =407.3)

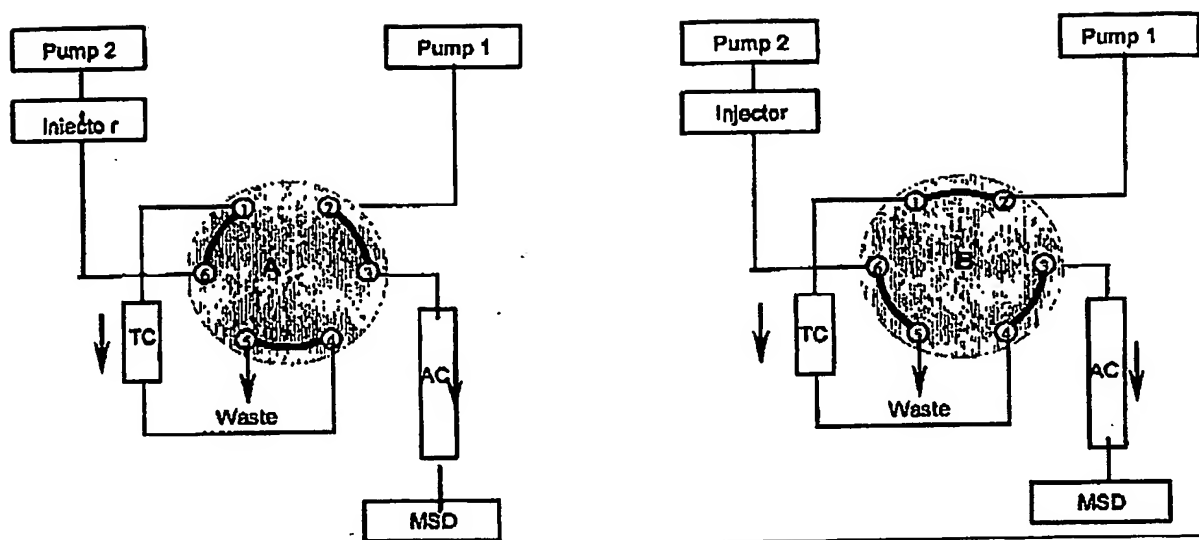


5 **Fig 2: Extracted ion chromatograms of a blank feed (no 25-hydroxycholecalciferol added)**  
Top: mass trace of 25-hydroxycholecalciferol (25-OH-D<sub>3</sub>), (m/z =401.3)  
Bottom: mass trace of 26,27-d<sub>6</sub>-25-hydroxycholecalciferol (d<sub>6</sub>-25-OH-D<sub>3</sub>), (m/z =407.3)



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**Fig 3: Extracted ion chromatograms of a typical feed (32 µg 25-hydroxycholecalciferol /kg)**  
 Top: mass trace of 25-hydroxycholecalciferol (25-OH-D<sub>3</sub>), (m/z =401.3)  
 Bottom: mass trace of 26,27-d<sub>6</sub>-25-hydroxycholecalciferol (d<sub>6</sub>-25-OH-D<sub>3</sub>), (m/z =407.3)



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Fig. 4 Column switching valve positions during the analysis

What is claimed is:

1. A process for the quantitative determination of 25-hydroxy-cholecalciferol in animal feed which comprises the steps of
  - a) dispersing the feed sample in water and adding to the sample a defined amount of an internal standard compound having a mass different from 25-hydroxycholecalciferol and having a polarity similar to but different from 25-hydroxycholecalciferol;
  - b) extracting the aqueous dispersion with tert.butyl methyl ether;
  - c) submitting the ether extract to semipreparative HPLC;
  - d) collecting the fractions containing 25-hydroxycholecalciferol and the internal standard compound;
  - e) submitting the fractions collected in d) or an aliquot thereof to HPLC combined with mass spectrometry;
  - f) determining the MS peak areas of 25-hydroxycholecalciferol and of the internal standard compound added; and
  - g) calculating the amount of 25-hydroxycholecalciferol by computing the MS peak areas measured.
2. A process as in claim 1 wherein the standard compound is 26,27-hexadeutero-25-hydroxycholecalciferol, 25-hydroxy-ergocalciferol, or 1 $\alpha$ -hydroxy-cholecalciferol.
3. A process as in claim 2 wherein the standard compound is 26,27-hexadeutero-25-hydroxycholecalciferol.
4. A process as in any one of claims 1-3 wherein the semipreparative HPLC is carried out on silica gel as the stationary phase and an isopropanol:ethyl acetate:isooctan mixture as the mobile phase.

5. A process as in claim 4 wherein the mobile phase is isopropanol:ethyl acetate:isooctan in a ratio (by volume) of about 1 : 10 : 89.

6. A process as in claim 4 or 5 wherein the stationary phase is Hypersil Si 60, 3  $\mu\text{m}$ .

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7. A process as in any one of claims 1-6 wherein the analytical HPLC is carried out in a chromatography system comprising a trapping column on which the substances to be measured are concentrated, and the intrinsic analytical column for separation.

10 8. A process as in claim 4 wherein the stationary phase in the analytical HPLC is a modified silica gel such as Aquasil C18, 3  $\mu\text{m}$ .

9. A process as in claim 7 or 8 wherein a gradient of water containing 0.05 % (vol/vol) formic acid and methanol containing 0.05 % (vol/vol) formic acid is used as the mobile phase.

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